

(ii) developing new herbal preparations for therapeutic purposes; and

(iii) searching for new single or concoction of a few molecules for specific disease of great importance to India and to the World. Towards this end CSIR has set up a networked programme involving several of its laboratories and the vast reservoir of traditional knowledge represented by three traditional systems of medicine, namely, Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha. CSIR is thus taping the available medicinal plant resources from all over the country including that from North East.

The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, the Central Council for Research in Unani medicine, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy are engaged in research including drugs development. These councils have their units in several States in the country, including North Eastern States. These councils are also engaged in ethno-botanical survey of medicinal plants and folklore medicines.

Namrup unit of HFC

2181. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest decision on revamping and bifurcation of Namrup Unit of HFC; and

(b) what positive steps have been taken to revise pay scale of workers of Namrup Unit of HFC, its only urea producing unit, to motivate them for higher productivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The rehabilitation proposal for Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) including bifurcation of its Namrup Unit into a separate corporate entity is to be submitted to the competent authority in the Government and thereafter for sanction of the Board for industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The Government have already approved the revamp of the Namrup Units of HFC at a cost of Rs. 350 crore, which is under implementation.

(b) The wage revision of the employees of Namrup Unit is linked to its segregation from HFC and its incorporation into a separate entity which will depend on the decision of the Government on the rehabilitation proposal of HFC and thereafter the sanction of the BIFR.

Average Cost of Feed Stock for Urea Manufacturers

2182. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the average cost of feed stock per million BTU for urea manufactured in the fertilizer exporting countries;

(b) whether average cost of feed stock per million BTU in fertilizer exporting countries is lower than the cost incurred by domestic manufacturers; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to make feed stock at globally competitive rates to domestic manufactures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) While average cost of feed stock per million BTU for urea manufactured in fertilizer exporting countries differ from country to country and the pricing details are not available, the energy cost in India for production of fertilizer is higher than that in the fertilizer exporting countries. It is estimated that energy cost in countries exporting fertilizer to India is around US \$ 1 or even less per million BTU, which in India is as high as US \$ 7 to 8 in case of naphtha based indigenous production while it is two to three times more in case of indigenous gas based units. While natural gas is a non-tradable commodity in international market, naphtha, which is another major feedstock for the fertilizer sector, can be imported freely. Public sector oil companies under the administrative control of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas as well as private sector companies are taking steps to set up projects with a view to promote